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## Good Choice

If, in the opinion of the President, the time had come to replace Allen Dulles as head of the Central Intelligence Agency it was entirely his prerogative to do so.

News reports of the meeting between the President, Mr. Dulles and his successor, John A. McCone, would indicate that the changeover was accomplished smoothly and without recrimination.

And while we may not necessarily agree with President Kennedy's decision to replace Mr. Dulles — "a courageous, selfless public servant" in the President's own words — we can and do approve his choice of a new head for the CIA.

For John A. McCone is no stranger to our Federal Government. He has demonstrated, in previous governmental posts, certain qualities which seem to qualify him for this new post. He has administrative ability, he possesses abundant physical and mental energy and he knows how to get along with Congress. And the latter ability, with the CIA under fire especially after the Cuban fiasco, will prove most important in the months ahead.

The CIA, by its very nature, must be a top secret organization. Congress in the past has provided millions of dollars for its operations, with no strings attached. Therefore it is contingent upon the CIA to perform effectively and to keep Congress informed — within obvious limits imposed by the necessity for secrecy — in order to justify its existence.

Further, Mr. McCone is faced with the task of thoroughly and carefully surveying the personnel of the CIA to make certain that from top to bottom the agency is staffed by people of professional excellence. For in the CIA, as perhaps in no other single Government agency, there is no room for incompetence.

As for Mr. Dulles, he has served his nation with quiet distinction for a long time. His country owes him a great deal and it is significant that he has promised President Kennedy he will always be available on a consultant basis, if the need should arise.

His retirement, we trust, will be pleasant and rewarding. He deserves it.